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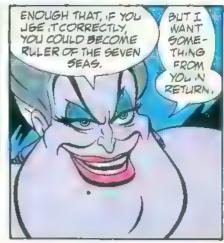










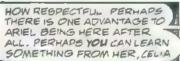




































































































GOING HOME NOW.



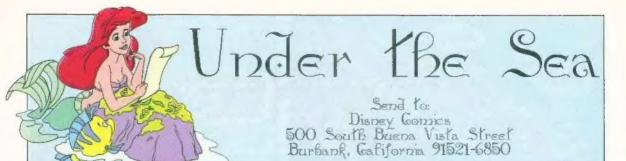












Welcome to The Little Mermaid #2. Now that all's well among the merfolk, let's take a breather to introduce you to our creators. They're an intriguing bunch.

Peter David, writer, currently scripts X-Factor and The Incredible Hulk for Marvel Comics, plus his own novels--not to mention both the graphic novel adaptation and prose novelization of The Rocketeer. I hired him for Mermaid because of his talent and experience as a comics writer, his great affection and affinity for The Little Mermaid, and his threat to break my legs if he didn't get the job. It wasn't a hard choice to make.

On the personal side, Peter and his wife Myra recently had a baby. They named her Ariel.

Our penciler is the talented Bill Fugate. Bill's done work for Mickey Mouse Adventures and Goofy Adventures, but the work that clinched the job for him was his Jessica Rabbit stories in Roger Rabbit's Toontown. If an artist can draw Jessica, there's a good chance that he can measure up to Ariel--and Bill's done a fine job.

Our two-page backup was penciled by **Dan Gracey**. Dan's a Disney animator who worked on, among other things, a movie called **The Little Mermaid**. Like Bill Fugate, Dan has drawn (in collaboration with his friend Tom Bancroft) a Jessica Rabbit story in **Roger Rabbit's Toontown**.

This issue's lead story was inked by our utility infielder, Dave Hunt. Dave inked the lead stories in Roger Rabbit and Roger Rabbit's Toontown; he inked our Beauty and the Beast graphic novel; and he inked much of The Little Mermaid #1. He's a long-time comics pro with more credits at DC and Marvel than I have room for. And he'll be back for future Mermald issues.

Our backup story was inked by Brian Garvey, another veteran of other companies. Brian's inked Dan Gracey's **Toontown** story and a number of our covers, including last issue's cover.

Steve Rude penciled and inked this issue's cover. Steve, co-creator of Nexus, is one of the hottest comics artists around, and we're thrilled to have him. Haunt the comics shops for his World's Finest mini-series; It looks great.

Our letterer is Gaspar Saladino, dean of comic-book letterers. He's best known for work at DC, but he's also lettered Disney's The Rescuers Down Under graphic novel and our Darkwing Duck limited series.

Jo Meugniot colored the whole issue, including the cover. She's been with Disney Comics from the start and is another one whose credits are too long to mention. Let's just say that a lot of the best-looking Disney Comics pages would be less attractive without her.

This list would be incomplete without Disney's Creative Development department. The writers, artists and editors of this group make sure that we write and draw the characters properly, and correct us when they're not. Managing Editor Bob Foster and I come from that department, and its staff is the best.

Among the Creative Developers who contributed to this comic:

Philo Barnhart was one of Ariel's top designers and animators in the movie. He's given invaluable advice and help to our artists, and you'll soon see his own work, since he's drawn next issue's cover.

Dave Pacheco also animated Ariel. Not only has he helped to keep this comic on model; he also penciled the covers of The Little Mermaid #1, our Beauty and the Beast graphic novel and Walt Disney's Comics and Stories #550.

Laureen Burger is new at Disney, having come from the Jim Henson organization; even though she'd never drawn Ariel before, she helped out on last issue and on the first pages of this one.

Lee Nordling has been at Disney for four years. He checks the scripts, offering insights, suggestions--and sometimes painful criticisms--that help us stay true to the characters.

Next issue

New penciler Scott Benefiel joins Peter David for "Guppy Love." A cute girl fish is in love with a boy fish, but he won't even notice her. Ariel tries to help the girl-but then discovers that the boy is Flounder, who doesn't want Ariel butting in.

In the movie, Scuttle never met Chef Louis--but he does now. The bird-brained bird flies into Louis's kitchen, and Louis tries to chase him out--with a cleaver! Mark Marderosian, penciler of last issue's center spread, returns to draw Peter David's "Culinary Cut-ups."

It's all on sale in the second half of February. Join us, okay?

David Seidman, editor

And now, because a good cast is worth repeating...

Credits

"Serpent Teen"
Written by Peter David
Penciled by Bill Fugate
inked by Dave Hunt
Lettered by Gaspar Saladino
Colored by Jo Meugnlot

"Keeping the Peace"
Penciled by Dan Gracey
Inked by Brian Garvey
Lettered by Gaspar Saladino
Colored by Jo Meugniot

Cover

Art by Steve Rude Colored by Jo Meugniot

Special thanks to Philo Barnhart, Dave Pacheco and Laureen Burger for character keying, and to Lee Nordling for his help and support.